

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for designing interconnects of an LSI, comprising the steps of:

preparing a netlist including a plurality of nets each specifying connection between two of terminals of circuit elements;

5 performing a simulation for estimating a positive-component average current and a negative-component average current of each of said terminals;

defining a graph including therein a set of nodes and a set of branches each connecting two of said nodes, said set of nodes including at
10 least some of said terminals and branch points of at least some of said branches;

nominating two of said nodes connected by a target branch selected from said at least some of said branches as a positive node and a negative node by using a fixed rule, and separating said at least some of said
15 terminals by said target branch into a positive-node terminal set and a negative-node terminal set corresponding to said positive node and said negative node;

calculating a first sum of said negative-component average currents of said terminals belonging to said positive-node terminal set and a second
20 sum of said positive-component average current of said terminals belonging to said negative-node terminal set, to select a lower value of said first sum and said second sum as a positive-component average current of said target branch;

calculating a third sum of said positive-component average currents
 25 of said terminals belonging to said positive-node terminal set and a fourth
 sum of said negative-component average currents of said terminals
 belonging to said negative-node terminal set, to select a lower value of said
 third sum and said fourth sum as a negative-component average current of
 said target branch; and

30 designing a size of an interconnect corresponding to said target
 branch based on said positive-component average current and said
 negative-component average current of said target branch.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said size designing step
 includes selecting a larger value of said positive-component average current
 and said negative-component average current of said target branch as a
 branch current of said target branch.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said simulation
 performing step includes obtaining a waveform of a current of said each of
 said terminals.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said positive-component
 average current avg_p and said negative-component average current avg_n
 of said each of said terminals are respectively represented by:

$$avg_p = \frac{1}{2T} \int_0^T \{|I(t)| + I(t)\} dt, \text{ and}$$

$$5 \quad \text{avg_n} = \frac{1}{2T} \int_0^T (|I(t)| - I(t)) dt,$$

where $I(t)$ and T are terminal current of said each of said terminals and a period of said terminal current, respectively.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said positive-component average current Iavg_p and said negative-component average current Iavg_n of said target branch are respectively represented by:

$$\text{Iavg_p} = \min \left(\sum_{m=1}^M a_m \cdot \text{avg_n}_m, \sum_{m=1}^M (1 - a_m) \cdot \text{avg_p}_m \right), \text{ and}$$

$$5 \quad \text{Iavg_n} = \min \left(\sum_{m=1}^M a_m \cdot \text{avg_p}_m, \sum_{m=1}^M (1 - a_m) \cdot \text{avg_n}_m \right),$$

where m is said sequential number, M is the highest number of said sequential numbers, and $a_m=1$ or $a_m=0$ depending on a m -th terminal belonging to said positive-node terminal set or said negative-node terminal set.

6. A method for designing interconnects of an LSI, comprising the steps of:

preparing a netlist including a plurality of nets each specifying

performing a simulation for estimating a positive-component
5 average current and a negative-component average current of each of said terminals;

separating a terminal set including a part of said terminals into a terminal sub-set and a complement of said terminal sub-set;

calculating a first sum of said negative-component average currents
 10 of said terminals belonging to said terminal sub-set and a second sum of
 said positive-component average current of said terminals belonging to said
 complement of said sub-set, to select a lower value of said first sum and
 said second sum as an average branch current of a target branch;

iterating said separating and calculating for another terminal set to
 15 calculate a plurality of average branch currents; and

designing a size of interconnect based on said average branch
 currents.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein said simulation
 performing step includes obtaining a waveform of a current of said each of
 said terminals.

8. The method according to claim 6, wherein said positive-component
 average current avg_p and said negative-component average current avg_n
 of said each of said terminals are respectively represented by:

$$avg_p = \frac{1}{2T} \int_0^T (|I(t)| + I(t)) dt, \text{ and}$$

5
$$avg_n = \frac{1}{2T} \int_0^T (|I(t)| - I(t)) dt,$$

where $I(t)$ and T are terminal current of said each of said terminals and a
 period of said terminal current, respectively.

9. A program stored on a medium for running on a computer system,

said program defining the steps of:

preparing a netlist including a plurality of nets each specifying connection between two of terminals of circuit elements;

5 performing a simulation for estimating a positive-component average current and a negative-component average current of each of said terminals;

defining a graph including therein a set of nodes and a set of branches each connecting two of said nodes, said set of nodes including at least some of said terminals and branch points of at least some of said branches;

10 nominating two of said nodes connected by a target branch selected from said at least some of said branches as a positive node and a negative node based on a fixed rule, and separating said at least some of said terminals by said target branch into a positive-node terminal set and a negative-node terminal set corresponding to said positive node and said negative node;

calculating a first sum of said negative-component average currents of said terminals belonging to said positive-node terminal set and a second sum of said positive-component average currents of said terminals belonging to said negative-node terminal set, to select a lower value of said first sum and said second sum as a positive-component average current of said target branch;

20 calculating a third sum of said positive-component average currents of said terminals belonging to said positive-node terminal set and a fourth sum of said negative-component average currents of said terminals

belonging to said negative-node terminal set, to select a lower value of said third sum and said fourth sum as a negative-component average current of said target branch; and

30 designing a size of an interconnect corresponding to said target branch based on said positive-component average current and said negative-component average current of said target branch.

10. A program stored on a medium for running on a computer system, said program defining the steps of:

 preparing a netlist including a plurality of nets each specifying connection between two of terminals of circuit elements;

5 performing a simulation for estimating a positive-component average current and a negative-component average current of each of said terminals;

 separating a terminal set including a part of said terminals into a terminal sub-set and a complement of said terminal sub-set;

10 calculating a first sum of said negative-component average currents of said terminals belonging to said terminal sub-set and a second sum of said positive-component average current of said terminals belonging to said complement of said sub-set, to select a lower value of said first sum and said second sum as an average branch current;

15 iterating said separating and calculating for another terminal set to calculate a plurality of average branch currents; and

 designing a size of interconnect based on said average branch currents.